

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, apart from the regular schemes of Government for the sector, a Comprehensive Policy Package was announced on 30th August, 2000, to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The Policy Package *inter-alia* includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Special thrust is given to creating employment opportunities in rural and adivasi areas through schemes like Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for self employment for educated unemployed youth, National Programme for Rural Industrialisation for rural clusters, Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Centres.

Package for disbursing loan

† 4547, PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any package for disbursing easy loan to the established small scale industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to make small scale sector liberalize and to develop the same as a major export sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government

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has introduced various measures including those contained in the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Government on 30th August, 2000 for enhancing the flow of credit to the small scale sector. These consist of enhancement of working capital limit computed on the basis of minimum of 20% of annual projected turnover from Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 5 crores raising the limit of loans without collaterals from Rs. 1 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, enhancement in composite loans limit from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs, raising of project cost limit under National Equity Fund Scheme from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs, launching of Credit Guarantee Scheme providing for bank loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs without collateral, setting up of specialised SSI bank branches etc.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several measures to strengthen the small scale sector and to encourage its exports, assistance on acquiring ISO-9000 certificate, quality awards, export related Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and consultancy services on this subject. The measures include subsidising participation in the International exhibitions/fairs, consultancy services on this subject. As part of the Comprehensive Policy Package, a Market Development Assistance Scheme has been announced. Other measures aimed at making SSI sector competitive both domestically and globally include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, enhancing SSI investment ceiling for certain hi-tech export oriented industries, infrastructure development through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications.

Impact of removal of restrictions on import on SSIs

4548. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to remove restrictions on import of hundred of items would spell disaster for the Small Scale Industries in the country;